FOREIGN FILES

BANQUE NATIONALE DU LAOS

BANK NOTES

1955-/973
For previous see Indo China (Bank Notes) Pckt.

April 11, 1955

His Excellency Qurot R. Souvannavong Minister of Laos Legation of Laos 2875 Woodland Drive N. W. Washington, D. C.

FILINO APR 12 1955

Excellency:

Our Far Eastern Representative, Mr. H. G. McNeary, recently advised us it is his understanding that your country is considering the issuance of a new permanent currency. We assume that the details regarding such an issue will be forwarded to your Legation in due course, or perhaps they are already in your hands.

We are most interested in placing our full facilities and services at the disposal of your Government and, in the interests of quality work and the highest security obtainable anywhere in the world, invite you to communicate with us. We shall, therefore, look forward to hearing from you.

Should you care to telephone, our New York exchange is White-hall 4-6200. We should, of course, be pleased to have our representative visit you at the Legation in Washington at any time.

In the meantime, accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Very truly yours,

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY

President



CROSS - REFERENCE

| Subject BANQUE NAT | IONALE DU LAOS | SFrom letter dated | August 12, 1955 |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| From MMWise | to Files | VAR II | |
| Filed in Packet BANQUI | E NATIONALE DU | VIET-NAM (Bank Notes) | |

Visit of Mr. John Dean (International Cooperation Administration - ICA)

Mr. John Bean called this afternoon following the suggestion of Mr. Wise to him when Mr. Dean arrived in New York from Saigon......

Mr. Dean said that Cambodia had been relying entirely upon French financial advisers, but that a few days ago they asked Washington whether they might have American financial advisers, and Mr. Dean said that Washington was planning to take care of the request......

I asked him what McNeary meant in cabling that Cambodia and Laos were unwilling to agree to an extension of time. He said that as a result of an agreement made some time ago that all three of the countries were to bring out entirely new issues of notes by not later than December 31st.....

CROSS - REFERENCE

| Subject n BANQUE NATIONALE DU LAOS 11/955 | From letter dated August 29, 1955 |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| From NY to HGM AUG | |
| Filed in Packet BANQUE NATIONALE DU VIETNAM (BANK | NOTES) |

Attached to your letter of August 21st, mailed from Manila, were a 10 Piastres note of the Institut d'Emission des États du Cambodge, du Laos et du Vietnam, No. 035803205, for which we wish to express our thanks.

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY DEC 14 1955 SUBJECT: austen. During druss Co. Dudy Chura Taux rates with to Williams Hurst To 21. D. O. m. 6 Vientiane Lass

Laos + Turng Turt

FILING DEC 14 1955

*

Royal Lias Gramment not represented in my has Legation it workington

DEC - 5 1955

DEC -5 (355

Ur. - 5 1855

0 - 5 B35

Carrow S טבנו בי בי טמט

> Jours o

Dr. - . 1855

DEC - 5 1955

Dec - 5 1855

そのない ここのない

| | тс | ALL THE WORLD | | TO SHIPS AT S | EA |
|---------------------------------|-----|---------------|-----|---------------|---|
| CLASS OF SERV | ICE | | DCA | | NUMBER |
| FULL RATE | 1 | FAST | | DIRECT | |
| LETTER TELEGRAM (LT) | X | ותסו | | DIRECT | CHECK |
| PRESS | | | | | |
| | | | 100 | DALA | TIME |
| FULL RATE UNLE OTHERWISE MAR | | RAD | 10G | KAM | 1. J. |

CHARGE ACCT. NO. SENDER'S

TO

American Bank Note Co., 70 Broad St., NYC DATE

December 13, 1955

NAME AND ADDRESS

William Hurst
USOM AmEmbassy
VIENTIANE (Laos)



Via RCA

SENDER PLEASE SPECIFY ROUTE:

INSERT "RCA"

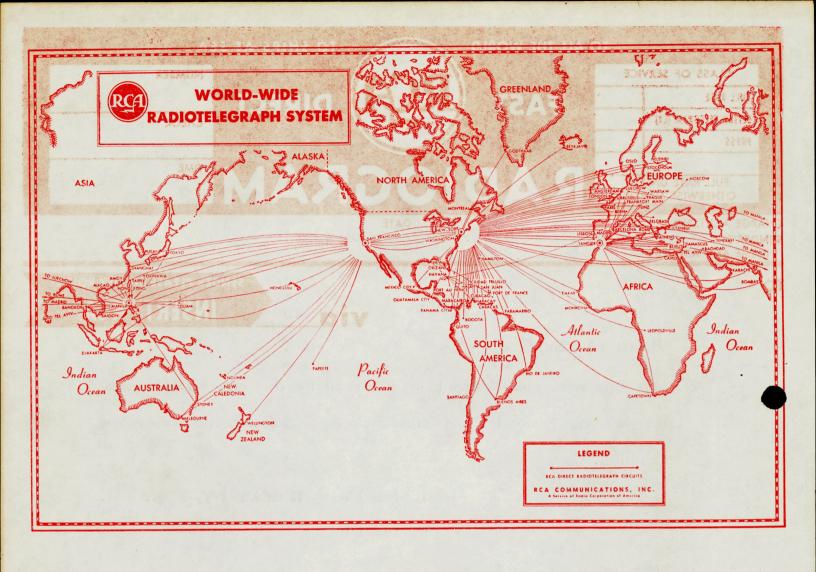
In response your inquiry through Irving Trust re printing bank notes would be pleased receive Banque Nationale specifications including sizes denominations designs and quantities.

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY, 70 Broad St.

MMW:ed

9.40

OK The



TRANSLATION

Vientiane, Jan. 14, 1956

(Laos)

Vientiane to American Bank Note Company, 70 Broad St., New York

No. 7 Reference your telegram January thirteen addressed to Hurst Vientiane we following would like to know your prices FOB ex-factory per thousand notes for/eventual order stop. Note one Kip quantity ten millions dimensions sixty by one hundred millimetres. Iithographic printing stop. Note five Kip quantity ten millions dimension sixty-five by one hundred ten lithographic printing stop. Note ten Kip quantity five millions dimensions sixty-five by one hundred twenty printing face intaglio engraving back. Iithographic stop. Bill twenty Kip quantity three millions dimensions sixty-five by one hundred twenty-five intaglio printing intaglio engraving stop. Note fifty Kip quantity three millions dimensions seventy by one hundred thirty-five printing intaglio engraving stop. We attach highest importance receiving reply cabled to Governor Banlao. Vientiane before twentieth January Please also indicate principal characteristics.

(ED)

ser 1-27

3561 9 T NUP

W.M.M. M. M. W. JAN 16 1956

and the still the same of the same of

1956 JAN 14 AM 5:58

DA182

F 191-14

FC2197

MS 1094

FM-530 VIENTIANE 142 14 1120



BANLAO VIENTIANE A AMERACAN BANK NOTES COMPANY 70 BROAD STREET NEW YORK NEWYORK

NO 7 COMME SUITE VOTRE TELEGRAMME TREIZE JANVIER ADRESSE A HURST VIENTIANE DESIRERIONS CONNAITRE VOS PRIX FOB EX-USINE PAR MILLE COUPURES POUR EVENTUELLE COMMANDE SUIVANTE STOP COUPURE UN KIP QUANTITE DIX MILLIONS DIMENSIONS MILLIMETRES SOIXANTE SUR CENT IMPRESSION LITHOGRAPHIQUE STOP COUPURE CINQ KIP QUANTITE DIX MILLIONS DIMENSION SOIXANTE CINQ SUR CENT

DIX IMPRESSION LITHOGRAPHIQUE STOP COUPURE DIX KIP QUANTITE

CINQ MILLIONS DIMENSIONS SOIXANTE CINQ SUR CENTVINGT IMPRESSION RECTO INTAGLIO GRAVURE VERSO LITHOGRAPHIQUE STO COUPURE VINGT KIP QUANTITE TROIS MILLIONS DIMENSIONS SOIXANTE CINQ SUR CENT VINGTCINQ IMPRESSION INTAGLIO

GRAVURE STOP COUPURE CINQUANTE KIP QUANTITE TROIS MILLIONS DIMENSIONS SOIXANTEDIX SUR CENT TRENTECING IMPRESSION INTAGLIO GRAVURE STOP ATTACHONS PLUS HAUTE IMPORTANCE RECEVOIR REPONSE CABLEE A GOUVERNEUR BANLAO VIENTIANE AVANT VINGT JANVIER PRIERE INDIQUER EGALEMENT CARACTERISTIQUES PRINCIPALES PAPIER ET DELAIS MINIMA PREMIERES LIVRAISONS

ICFM FM-530 BANLAO VIENTIANE A AMERACAN BANK NOTES COMPANY 70 BROAD STREET NEW YORK NEWYORK NO 7 HURST VIENTIANE FOB EX-USINE KIP DIX MILLIONS MILLIMETRES SOIXANTE KIP DIX MILLIONS SOIXANTE CINQ/KIP CINQ MILLIONS SOIXANTE CENTVINGT RECTO INTAGLIO IRPT RECTO INTAGLIO KIP TROIS MILLIONS SOIXANTE CINQ VINGTCINQ INTAGLIO KIP TROIS MILLIONS SOIXANTEDIX TRENTECINQ A BANLAO VIENTIANE VINGT JANVIER



| | | то | ALL THE WORL | .D | | O SHIPS | AT SE | Α | |
|--------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------|----------------|-----------|
| CL | ASS OF SERV | ICE / | | De | 70 | | | NUMBER | |
| FULL I | RATE | V | FAST | | | DIREC | CT | | 40.0 |
| RADIC | OLETTER (LT) | | i AJ i | 1- | 7 | | | CHECK | |
| PRESS | | | | | | | | | |
| | JLL RATE UNLI HERWISE MAR | ESS RKED | RAC | 010 | GF | RAI | M | TIME | |
| | ND ADDRESS | Ameri | can Bank Note Broad St. | Co. | **** | nuary 20, | | ER PLEASE SPEC | FY ROUTE: |
| 0 | | O (Bang ANE (La | | du Laos) | 1-14 | RCA | | NSERT "R | RCA" |
| | | - | Greatly appre | ciate your r | request for | quotations | bankno | ites stop As | you |
| | will und | lerstand | very difficult p | repare prop | osal withou | ut knowing | nature | pictorial mate | erial |
| | involved | d stop | Henry McNear | y our repres | entative le | eaving for F | Far East | and will visit | you |
| | about Fo | ebruary : | Gan you pos | tpone decisi | on until ar | rival stop | Please | advise | |
| | | | | Colc | ough Pres | ident Ame | rican B | ank Note Con | npany |

WFC:ed OKM. Send the above Radiogram subject to the conditions, regulations and rates as set forth in the applicable tariff of RCA Communications, Inc., and on file with the regulatory authorities. RCA COMMUNICATIONS, INC., A SERVICE OF RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA

pee 1 - 25

RCA Communications, Inc., normally operates over eighty direct radiotelegraph circuits terminating in principal cities of the following countries:

| Argentina | Egypt | Iran | Poland Portugal Puerto Rico |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Australia | Finland | Italy | |
| Austria | France | Japan | |
| Belgian Congo | French West Africa Germany Great Britain | Korea | St. Pierre-Miquelon |
| Belgium | | Lebanon | Spain |
| Bermuda | | Liberia | Surinam |
| Brazil | Greece | Macao | Sweden Switzerland |
| Bulgaria | Greenland | Martinique | |
| Chile China Colombia | Guatemala Haiti Hawaii | Mexico New Caledonia | Tahiti Tangier Thailand |
| Cuba Curacao | Holland Hongkong | New Zealand Norway Okinawa | Turkey Union of South Africa |
| Czechoslovakia | Iceland Indo-China Indonesia | Pakistan | U.S.S.R. |
| Dominican Republic | | Panama | Venezuela |
| Ecuador | | Philippines | Yugoslavia |

To countries where no direct route is available, "Via RCA" offers superior service, since messages are subject to fewer relays.

January 20, 1956

Memorandum for the Files

JAN 26 1956

Banque Nationale du Laos

During telephone conversation today with Messrs. McCormick and Esman of ICA, Washington, D. C., I was told that the currently proposed order for bank notes would be financed with U. S. dollars, furnished either directly by ICA or through payment authorized from so-called "free dollars", whose expenditure is tacitly controlled by ICA. I was further informed that under these conditions the notes would be ordered exclusively from U. S. suppliers.

Manager Foreign Department

MMW:sg

ecei .05 yraunat

Memorrandum for the Fires

Banque Nationale du Laos

During relephone conversation today with Messrs. McGermick and Esman of ICA, Masnington. D. C., I was told that the currently proposed order for bank notes could be financed with U. S. dollars, furnished wither directly by ICA or through payment authorized from so-called free dollars, whose expenditure is facility controlled by ICA. I was further informed that under these conditions the notes would be ordered exclusively from U.S. suppliers.

(-)

Manager Foreign Department

03:484

| | TO ALL THE | E WORLD | TO SHIP | S AT SEA |
|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|---------------------------|
| CLASS OF SER | | DC | A DIRE | NUMBER |
| RADIOLETTER (LT) | FA | AST LEG | DIRE | CHECK |
| PRESS | | | | TIME |
| FULL RATE UN OTHERWISE MA | LESS RKED | ADIO | GRA | M |
| GE ACCT. NO. | A STATE OF THE STA | de la companya de la | ATE | Belgings |
| R'S ME AND ADDRESS | American Bank | k Note Co., 70 Bro | oad FILIN Janua | ry 25, 1956 |
| | GOVERNOR | un Nationale de La | JAN 26 1956 | INSERT "RCA" |
| | VIENTIANE (Los | ue Nationale du Lac os) | os) VIO RCA | Cuba Cuba |
| | | | | branus. |
| | Refere | ence our cable Janu | ary twenty would | appreciate advice whether |
| | | ence our cable Janu ay sending our quotat | lo-Cinna | al sildupst ensimulest |
| | | y sending our quotat | tion pending arrivo | of sild-half-continued |
| nediadi | | y sending our quotat | tion pending arrivo | Mr. McNeary. |
| | satisfactory dela | y sending our quotat | tion pending arrive | Mr. McNeary. |

RCA Communications, Inc., normally operates over eighty direct radiotelegraph circuits terminating in principal cities of the following countries:

| Argentina Australia Austria | Egypt Finland France | Iran Italy Japan | Poland Portugal Puerto Rico |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Belgian Congo | French West Africa | Korea | St. Pierre-Miquelon |
| Belgium Bermuda | Germany Great Britain | Lebanon | Spain Surinam |
| Brazil | Greece | Liberia Macao | Sweden |
| Bulgaria | Greenland | Martinique | Switzerland |
| Chile | Guatemala | Mexico | Tahiti |
| China | Haiti | New Caledonia | Tangier |
| Colombia | Hawaii A A A | New Zealand | Thailand |
| Cuba | Holland | Norway | Turkey |
| Curacao | Hongkong | Okinawa | Union of South Africa |
| Czechoslovakia | Iceland | Pakistan | U.S.S.R. |
| Dominican Republic | Indo-China | Panama | Venezuela |
| Ecuador | Indonesia | Philippines | Yugoslavia |

To countries where no direct route is available, "Via RCA" offers superior service, since messages are subject to fewer relays.

DA249

FB3809

MSE312

FM-454

VIENLIANE 33 27 1715

Reflied 1-77

1956 JAN 27 AM 10:20

AMERICAN BANKNOTE COMPANY 70 BROAD STREET JAN 27 1956

NR 19 REFERENCE VOTRE CABLE 20 JANVIER EN RAISON EXTREME URGENCE DE NOS BESOINS REGRETTONS VIVEMENO NE POUVROIR ACCORDER DELAI ET VOUS CONFIER COMMANDE BANLAO

BANLAO +

TRANS.: Vientiane, Jan. 27, 1956 No. 19 Reference your cable 20 January Because of extreme urgency of our needs we regret extremely unable grant delay and entrust you BANLAO order.

ICFM FM 454 AMERICAN BANKNOTE COMPANY 70 BROAD STREET NYK

NR 19 20 BANLAO BANLAO

(Sgd.) BANLAO (Banque Nationale du Laos) (ED)





DASAG

208587

MSISTS

181-11

VIENLIANE 33 27 1715 =

MEDICAN BANKNOIR COMPANY TO BROAD STRING

NR 19 REFERENCE VOTER CABLE 20 JANVIER

RCENCE DE NOS BESOIMS RECRETTONS VIVED

DELAL ET VOUS CONFIERICOMMANDE BANLADA

+ OALMAG

ICEM FM ASA AMERICAM BANKNOTE COMPANY TO EROAD STREET NYK-

| | то | ALL THE WORLD | | TO SHIPS AT S | EA |
|---------------------------------|-----|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| CLASS OF SERV | CE | | DCA | | NUMBER |
| FULL RATE | X | FAST | UKUA I | DIRECT | |
| LETTER TELEGRAM (LT) | | IASI | | DIRECT | CHECK |
| PRESS | | | | | |
| | 100 | - | 100 | DALL | TIME |
| FULL RATE UNLE OTHERWISE MAR | | RAD | TOG | RAM | |

CHARGE ACCT. NO. SENDER'S

TO

American Bank Note Co., 70 Broad St. DATE

January 27, 1956

NAME AND ADDRESS

GOVERNOR
BANLAO (Banque Nationale du Laos)
VIENTIANE (Loos)

VIO RCA

SENDER PLEASE SPECIFY ROUTE:

Reurtel No. 19 difficult determine costs without knowing further details stop. However in view urgency and as evidence our desire cooperate will undertake execute order for notes described urtel. No. 7 at following prices per thousand US currency FOB Newyork ones \$5.25 fives \$5.75 tens \$8.25 twenties \$13.25 fifties \$13.50 stop. For security reasons strongly urge at least one steel printing each denomination and will quote revised prices ones and fives this basis if desired stop. Will use our regular planchette paper most secure and durable obtainable and manufactured by supplier to US Government stop. Unable determine delivery time until receipt of pictorial material but confident can meet your needs stop. Although you may receive from others lower prices than foregoing because of difference in cost of producing our high quality we believe for reasons of security and prestige you should have finest notes obtainable stop. Suggest you compare notes furnished by us and others to BANVINA stop. Our representative McNeary will be pleased show you other specimens our work and discuss all details stop. Our experience and facilities at your disposal and we look forward to serving you.

COLCLOUGH PRESIDENT BANKNOTE

WFC:ed

OK NI

cc: Mr. McNeary, Hotel Majestic, Saigon, Viet-Nam

per 2-1



Air Mail

Mr.H.G. McNeary Hotel Majestic Saigon, Viet-Nam

JAN 30 1033

Dear Mr. McNeary:

As you know, on January 14 we received the following cable from the above Bank:

"Reference your telegram December thirteen addressed to Hurst Vientiane we would like to know your prices FOB ex-factory per thousand notes for following eventual order stop Note one Kip quantity ten millions dimensions sixty by one hundred millimetres lithographic printing stop Note five Kip quantity ten millions dimension sixty-five by one hundred ten lithographic printing stop Note ten Kip quantity five millions dimensions sixty-five by one hundred twenty printing face intaglio engraving back lithographic stop Bill twenty Kip quantity three millions dimensions sixty-five by one hundred twenty-five printing intaglio engraving stop Note fifty Kip quantity three millions dimensions seventy by one hundred thirty-five printing intaglio engraving stop We attach highest importance receiving reply cabled to Governor Banlao Vientiane before twentieth January Please also indicate principal characteristics paper and minimum time first deliveries".

On January 20th, just prior to your departure, we cabled the Bank as follows:

"Greatly appreciate your request for quotations banknotes stop
As you will understand very difficult prepare proposal without
knowing nature pictorial material involved stop Henry McNeary
our representative leaving for Far East and will visit you about
February 3 Can you postpone decision until arrival stop Please
advise".

As we had received no reply, on January 25 we sent a follow-up message reading:

"Reference our cable January twenty would appreciate advice whether satisfactory delay sending our quotation pending arrival Mr. McNeary".

Today we received the following reply:

"Reference your cable 20 January because of extreme urgency of our needs we regret extremely unable grant delay and entrust you BANLAO order".

We, then, immediately cabled our quotation as set forth in the copy of our telegram attached.



JAN 30 1053 Jan. 27, 1956

Mr. H. G. McNeary Saigon, Viet-Nam Page 2.

This brings you up-to-date on the background and status of this negotiation. We shall advise you by cable of any further development of significance and in the meantime expect that you will plan to visit Laos as soon as feasible.

Sincerely,

Manager Foreign Department

MMW:sg

CROSS - REFERENCE

| Subject Laos, - Banque Nationale du | From Newter dated Feb. 1, 1956 |
|--|--------------------------------|
| From Mr.Mc Neary to NY Filed in Packet Viet-Nam Stamps | FEB -2 1856 |

"Referring to your letter of 27th Ult. Leaving here Friday
for Laos Please telegraph them stop"

| | T | O ALL THE WORL | LD | TO SHIPS AT | SEA | |
|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---|-----|
| | CLASS OF SERVICE | | DCA | | NUMBER | |
| | FULL RATE | FAST | RCA | DIRECT | | |
| | LETTER TELEGRAM (LT) PRESS | | | | CHECK | |
| - | LVC33 | | | | TIME | |
| | FULL RATE UNLESS OTHERWISE MARKED | IRAI | DIOGI | RAM | TIME | |
| CHAR | RGE ACCT. NO. | | | | | |
| | PER'S AME AND ADDRESS | erican Bank Not 70 Broad St | e Co. | bruary 1, 1956 | 2 Broadway 54 Well Smeet 111 Berliner | |
| 01 | 100 | | FILING | SEN | IDER PLEASE SPECIFY ROUTE | : 3 |
| | GOVERNOR | | FEB 72 VI | CI_RCA | INSERT "RCA" | |
| | BANLAO | IBanque Nati | onale du Laos) | Af line 80 | | |
| | VIEN | TIANE (Laos) | | 100 | | |
| | | REFER C | OUR CABLE JANUARY | 27 MCNEARY | EXPECTS | |
| | | ARRIVE | THERE FRIDAY | | | |
| | | | | BANKNOTE | | |
| | MALT | | | | | |

15:30 POK Not

10100

R C A C O M M U N I C A T I O N S, I N C. A SERVICE OF RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA



OFFICES

NEW YORK

66 Broad St., N. Y. 4 (Always Open)
Tel: Hanover 2-1811 • TWX: NY 1-1345

2 Broadway 54 Wall Street 111 Broadway 5 Beekman Street 132 Franklin Street 45 East 17 Street 275 Fifth Avenue Bowling Green 9-9164
Whitehall 4-3650
Rector 2-3377
Barclay 7-1162
Walker 5-4891
Algonquin 4-7050
Lexington 2-5347
N. Y. International Airport

25 West 43 Street
405 Lexington Avenue
30 Rockefeller Plaza
7 Central Park West
102 East 57 Street
Waldorf Astoria Hotel
United Nations Headquarters
Olympia 6-5787

Bryant 9-0572 Murray Hill 9-1891 Circle 7-5525 Circle 7-6210 Plaza 8-1200 Eldorado 5-6940

SAN FRANCISCO

28 and 36 Geary St., S. F. 8 (Always Open) Tel: Garfield 1-4200 • TWX: SF 861

200 Pine Street 215 Market Street (Matson Bldg.) Garfield 1-4200 Garfield 1-4200

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1112 Connecticut Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. 6 Tel: National 8-2600 • TWX: WA 156 1225 19 Street, N. W. National 8-2600

OVERSEAS OFFICES

CUBA Havana Cuba Transatlantic Radio Corporation Edificio Gomez Mena • Tel: A-1156

HAITI
Port-au-Prince
Maison Leger • Tel: 3322

OKINAWA Naha P. O. BOX 287 • Tel: 21105 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Ciudad Trujillo
Edificio Diez • Tel: 3722

HAWAII Honolulu 223 South King St. • Tel: 52521

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS Manila Plaza Moraga • Tel: 27901 GUAM
Agana
RCA Box 577 • Tel: Denver 4184, Denver 6277

NORTH AFRICA
Tangier International Zone
33 Boulevard Pasteur • Tel: 5700

PUERTO RICO
San Juan
1 Comercio St. • Tel: San Juan 2-0141

Liability limited to \$500 except for repeated or specially valued service which is available upon request.

MCNEARY

MAJOTEL

SAIGON (Vietnam)

February 1, 1956

FEB -27855 Acme Code

| OSMI J | Refer to your telegram of 1st inst |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| ANSAD | National City Bank of New York |
| OXIUD | today |
| LOZIW | received Viet va et |
| AIOPS | appropriate polose state |
| ALYGC | authorization |
| FAEMM | issue |
| FNUMJ | letter |
| BYQAP | credit |
| OKPYO | stop |
| OTUGA | Have telegraphed |
| LAOS | face Notes |

MMW:sg

Mar ffsee FEB - 6 1956

M. M. W.

FEB -6 1956

BANKNOTE

NYC

FILING

Saigon, February 6, 1956 (Acme Code)

(SG)

AKIAK

Arrived today

OSRIE

Refer to your telegram of 27th ult.

KMOYV

Quantity named

BANLAO

Banque Nationale du Laos

ILULD

Have given order to

NERKT

Security(ies)

FECSY

January 20th

LIHTS

Our quotations

LUCCS

Received too late

EBWOY

Expect to hear from them (...) (by)

ABHWY

About (to)

ADWLA

Some additional

CUCYX

Denominations

GUAGD

About 2 to about 3 months

possible

DJEOB

Everything/has been done (to)

OKPYO

Stop

OSMIJ

Refer to your telegram of 1st inst

BANVINA

Banque Nationale du Viet-Nama

ECFWY

Must keep down expenses

BOUIM

Continue as usual

ITDOF

Packing 100,000

(H. G. McNeary)

De VII

DA184

FND48

MS 46

FM30

SAIGON 24 6 1550 ACME CODE

FEB =7 1956

1956 FEB -6 AM 5: 30

PO1

64-6

BANKNOTE NEWYORK

AKIAK OSRIE KMOYV BANLAO ILULD NERKT FECSY LIHTS LUCCS EBWOY ABHWY ADWLA CUCYX GUAGD DJEOB OSMIJ BANVINA ECFWY BOUIM ITDOF ICYTY

ICFM FM30 BANKNOTE NEWYORK AKIAK OSRIE KMOYV BANLAO ILULD NERKT FECSY LIHTS LUCCS EBWOY ABHWY ADWLA CUCYX GUAGD DJEOB OKPYO OSMIJ BANVINA ECFWY BOUIM ITDOF ICYTY



RPORATION OF AMERICA TEL. HA. 2-1811

66 BROAD STREET, N. Y.,



al

The property of the property of the party of

MCNEARY (H. G. McNeary) MAJOTEL (Hotel Majestic) SAIGON (Viet-Nam)

FILING FEB -7 1956 Feb. 6, 1956 ACME CODE

OSMNO

Refer to your telegram of 2nd inst.

OSMXY

Refer to your telegram of 6th inst.

BANVINA (Banque Nationale du Viet-Nam)

ITDOF

Packing

RYLOT

Will

BOUIM

Continue as usual

OKPYO

Stop

BANLAO (Banque Nationale du Laos)

IZAFE

Please

EJOH

Furnish

RECZF

Us

NERKT

Security

LIFWY

Quotation(s)

OKPYO

Stop

OILAS

Stamps

SFEAS

Have written

OXIUD

Today

OXFIW

To

JAIPG

Postmaster

BUMLA

Copy

OXISB

To you

CYCIL

Detailing

pre 2/11

FEB T GELJE

Changes

To be made

FRIBN

Letters of credit

OKPYO

Stop

FAFTS

New issue

FOUZX

Referring to their letter of

FECMS

January 16

JOYRH

Our price

IDNEU

17,000,000

IDFZY

500,000

OILAS

Stamps

QUNKK

\$18,200.00

PWYOG

\$75.00

AHUAW

And

IBXWA

2400

KASEK

Proofs

GYINE

Namely

HYUPV

600

DUFDY

Each of

EICMY

Four

GAVMU

Lois

DUEZY

Each

ENZVO

Having

TOMWO

Three

(Cable to Mr. McNeary, Salgon - p. 3)

Feb. 6, 1956

FILING

OILAS

Stemps

FEB -7 1956

GOSET

\$2,300.00

PUINT

\$15.00

BUYAD

CIF

SAIGON

AFEHR

Will advise

COMPY

Delivery

ODMYJ

Shortly

OSMXY

Refer to your telegram of 6th inst.

AITDA

We approve of

IYYKL

Your plans

JYSDI

To proceed to

MMW:JWB:ed

Perfectly of FEB -7 1956

BANKNOTE

NYC

FILING

SAIGON, February 7, 1956

ACME CODE

(BG)

| OSMYZ | Refer | to | your | telegram | of | 7th | inst. |
|-------|-------|----|------|----------|----|-----|-------|

BANLAO Banque Nationale du Laos M. M. W.

FJOIH Insofar as we can learn FEB - 71956

NERKT Security(ies)

JIVUH Price(s)

IXEVP Approximately 10%

PAGYL Under us

OKPYO Stop

OILAS Stamp(s)

GYAST Telegram mutilated

JOTNI Is (are) price(s) correct

QUNII 18,000.00

QAVQ0 275.00

AHUAW and

QORND 2,000.00

QEAZW 315.00

OXYMG making a total of

QUOKJ 20,000.00

QEYSR 590.00

BIOZA Please confirm immediately

OILAS Stamp(s)

NYESI When did you ship

(H. G. McNeary)



1956 FEB -7 AM 9:50



D312

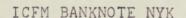
FND701 MSB832

FM189 SAIGON 24 7 2026

BANKNOTE NEWYORK

OSMYZ BANLAO FJOIH NERKT JIVUH IXEVP PAGYL OKPYO OILAS GYAST JOTNI QUNII QAVQO AHUAW QORND QEAZW OXYMG QUOKJ QEYSR BIOZA

OILAS NYESI



OSMYZ BANLAO FJOIH NERKT JIVUH IXEVP PAGYL OKPYO OILAS GYAST JOTNI QUNII QAVQO AHUAW QORND QEAZW OXYMG QUOKJ QEYSR BIOZA OILAS NYESI





A.B.N.CO.



FEB -7 1956

Banque Nationale du Laos Vientiane Laos February 3 to February 6.

FILINO EB 23 1056

Written in Bangkok February 11 1956 Relid July M. M. W.

Confirming exchange of telegrams.

Yours Jany 30.- recd SaigonnJany 31.

refer to your telegram of January 30 please claim three letters at Majestic Hotel, Vietnam stamps - Cambodian Notes Laos Notes last mailed January 27.

Ours January 31.
Laos letter not yet received Cambodia received today.

Ours Feb 1.

refer to your telegram of 27th ulto leaving here Friday for Laos please telegraph them

NOTHING FOR FILING

Ours Feb 1. to Banlao.

referring to American Banknote Company New York telegram January 27
I will arrive Vientiane February 3 would appreciate any help
you can give obtaining accommodations for my stay sincere thanks
McNeary American Banknote Co Majestic Hotel Saigon

Ours Feb 1 to Alex Moore US Mission.

arriving Vientiane Friday 3rd to see Governor Banque Nationale stop would greatly appreciate any help you can give obtaining accommodation sincere thanks McNeary Majestic Hotel

Moore's tele Feb 2nd recd Feb 3 rd sent urgent.

absolutely no accommodations Vientiane this time require minimum
ten days notice Moore.—

Ours February 6 from Saigon arrived today refer to your tele 27 quantity named Banque Nationale du laos have given order to Security January 20 our quotation received too late expect to hear from them about some additional denominations in about 2 to about 3 months everything possible has been done.

Your telegram 6th
Bank Laos please furnish us Security's quotations

Ours February 7 refer to your telegram of 6th Bank Laos insofar as we can learn Security's prices approximately 10% under us stop.

Banque Nationale du Laos

FILINO

Page 2. FEB 23 1000

As indicated in Alex Moore's telegram of Feb 2nd it is difficult to find a place to sleep in Vientiane. There is no such thing as a hotel. On my arrival, my first problem was to recover a lost bag which contained my specimens, code etc, it was eventually found at the home of the French High Commissioner who was a fellow passanger.

Next was to find a place to stay. At the Vietnam Air Line office I contacted a Kwangtung Chinese and had arranged for a bed at his place when Mr Wm Hurst, of the Federal Reserve Bank, acting as the US Missions Finance Officer arrived and said he had arranged for me to stay at Mr. N. Carter de Paul's.— de Paul is head of the US Mission.

At the de Paul house I met Jacobson and Timberland of the Chase Bank, they had arrived several days before and were to see the Governor that afternoon. Wm Hurst was going with them, said that he would make an appointment for me. Hurst indicated that the contract had been signed with Security on January 20; the date given you as the Banque's deadline for submitting quotations.

About 6 pm Hurst returned to de Paul's and informed me the Governor would see me at 8 a.m. the following morning and that he, Hurst, arranged for an interpreter.

At the appointed time, with Hurst and the interpreter I met the Governor and his neputy, they expressed regret in not being in a position to consider your telegraphic proposal, said it arrived too late but that they believed 2 additional denominations will be required and that we would be given favorable consideration.

I showed the Governor, H.E. Phouy Panya - and his Deputy - H.E. Thao Bou our range of specimens, explained the superior quality of our engravings and paper. They seemed impressed and several times expressed their regret that our quotations and shipping schedule had not arrived in time.

I made every effort to get Security's prices. Hurst thought the question unethical. I asked the interpreter to put the question to the Governor and to tell them such information was generally a matter of public knowledge, that the US Government publishes such data and other Central Banks and Institutions of issue freely give the information. They finally indicated Security's prices were roughly 10% under ours.

PILING PEB 23 1056

page 3.

I asked the Governor for details of the 2 additional denominations, pictorial material and Laos writings etc, he said they were not available at this time but would be sent as soon as authorized by the Board. Later Hurst said he thought it may take about 2 or 3 months and that the Governor was a very cautious person and would say or do nothing intil authorized by the Board.

Wm Hurst is from the Federal Reserve Bank, San Francisco - he will leave Laos for NY/Washington in 2 weeks and has agreed to contact Mr M.M.Wise when in New York, you will find him well informed, on the Laos monetary situation.

Jacobsen said they have found it absolutely necessary to correspond with the Banque in French, English letters go unanswered. Your English telegrams were answered because they were referred to Bill Hurst.

Jwo No enclosures for filing Cards

Far Eastern Representative.

Laos and Thai writings are very similar.

+ 3

page 5.

Bright

I asked the Governor for details of the 2 additional denominations, plotorial material and lace writings etc, he said they were not available at this time but would be sent as soon as authorized by the Board. Later livest said he thought it may take about 2 or 5 months and that the Governor was a very cautious person and would say or do nothing jutil authorized by the Board.

Um Murst is from the Federal Reserve Bank, Sen Frencisco - he will leave Lace for MY askington in 2 weeks and has agreed to contact it M.M. Was when in New York, you will find him well informed, on the Lace monetary situation.

Jacobson said they have found it absolutely necessary to correspond with the Benque in Prench, English letters to unanswered. Your English telegrams were answered because they were referred to Hill Hurst.

No enclosurestor filling

Far Eastern Rapresentative.

Lace and That writings are very similar.



Phouy PANYA

GOUVERNEUR DE LA BANQUE NATIONALE DU LAOS

THAO BOU

SOUS-GOUVERNEUR

DE LA BANQUE NATIONALE DU LAOS

Air Mail

Mr. H.G. McNeary c/o Hotel Majestic February 21, 1956 Saigon, Viet-Nam

FILING

Dear Mr. McNeary:

We have your letter of February 11th from Bangkok and wish to thank you for the excellent report therein concerning your activities in Vientiane.

We observe with interest that two additional denominations will perhaps be needed. We assume that in due course we shall hear directly from the Bank.

A visit from Mr. Hurst will be welcome and we look forward to it.

Very truly yours,

JWB:ed

Asst. Manager Foreign Department



FOR THIS

Kingdom of Laos

Saigon/NewYork April 20 1956

> M. M. W. MAY -1 1956

Pictorial material of Laos - Luang-Prabang is the capital.

| 33037 | The "deserted" pagoda in Luang-Prabang |
|-------|---|
| 33039 | Phan-Luang Temple |
| 33040 | Wat Xieng Thong Temple - Luang Prabang |
| 33041 | Ancestry Altar - Luang-Prabang |
| 33042 | Decorations on doors of Wat Siboudhabath Temple |
| 33044 | Wat Vixoun Pagoda |
| 33047 | пппп |

The above material may be useful at some future time.

Far Eastern Representative.

24907-24909-24911- other scenes at Vientaine Laos HMN

Pietures & Bromp 9/6/16

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

April 25, 1956

Memorandum for the Files:

APR 26 1956

Banque Nationale du Laos

Yesterday I attended a luncheon given at India House by the Far East-America Council for Mr. Charles de Paul, Chief of the ICA mission to Laos.

As regards the recent award of the order for bank notes, Mr. de Paul said he was sorry Mr. McNeary had not been in Laos sooner and that we had not submitted our quotation before the deadline. He added that competition was desirable in these negotiations and that unfortunately his relationship had been almost exclusively with Bill Hunt and his representatives, to the point, he commented, that it was somewhat embarrassing. He said that on one occasion he had suggested to ICA in Washington that ABNCo. be urged to present its prices.

Since there was no favorable opportunity to discuss matters further with Mr. de Paul yesterday, he said he would be in New York for a time and would be glad for me to arrange to see him. He believed there would be new orders for notes fairly soon. Bill Hunt was at the luncheon. He sat on the dais, directly on the right of Mr. de Paul. When a question came up about currency Mr. de Paul turned to Hunt and suggested that he discuss the point, as he was so well informed. Hunt did not respond, except with a smile.

During his formal remarks to the luncheon, Mr. de Paul strongly emphasized that business could not successfully be negotiated with Laos through correspondence. He said the Laotians preferred direct contacts, did not like letters, and would not read them unless written in French or their own language. In fact, he said, repeated personal visits were almost essential to close a business deal.

MMW:ed

Manager Foreign Department

Thunas m hise

FILINO JUL -9 1956 Saigon/NY
June 26 1956

Celid 7/6/1-6 M. M. W.

mmw

MW. Howell & Co 1001 Connecticut Ave.

It is reported Howell & Co has been retained by the US Government to assist the Laos Government's Washington Procurement Agency.

Might be of interest to contact one of the above.

Far Eastern Representative.

HMN

Washington DC

JUL -6 1856

. . tomagh from .

Per M. Lun in resembative.



Laos Government's Procurement Agency; – Howell & Co., 1001 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D. C.

Air Mail July 6, 1956 Mr. H. G. McNeary c/o Majestic Hotel Saigon, Viet-Nam

FILING

JUL -9 1956

Dear Mr. McNeary:

Thank you for your letter of June 26th on the above. On a future trip to Washington I shall plan to call on both offices.

We spoke with Mr. Carter de Paul, Chief of the ICA Mission to Laos, when he was here. In summary, he said that he liked competition and hoped to see our quotations among the others in the future. He said the ordering of notes would be a "continuing thing" but that the Bank would not do business by mail, for it is not customary or practical in Laos. He considered repeated personal visits essential.

Sincerely,

MMW:ed

Manager Foreign Department



September 6, 1956

Mr. A. P. Marcavage Manager of the Engraving Division Bronx Plant

General

Herewith are copies of Mr. McNeary's three letters of April 20th, together with the photographs listed therein of Cambadia, Viet-Nam and the city of Hue in Viet-Nam.

Also enclosed is a photograph of a water wheel in Cambodia which, as noted on the back, is a common sight in that country.

Will you please hold these in your files for possible future use.

Enclosures

Asst. Manager Fereign Department

CROSS - REFERENCE

| Subject Laos - Postage Stamps | From letter dated May, 1957 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| From to | - 22 22 2 |
| Filed in Declar | FILING |
| Filed in Packet | SEP 24 1957 |

Stamps printed in France

- Six (6) Postage Stamps "Dancing" series
- Six (6) Postage Stamps "Music" series

Handed to me by Mr. Wise and put in competitor stamp album

9.

ment and agricultural machinery, and, with the further development of the area, for textiles, chemicals, household equipment and machinery. The Germans are more skeptical, however, about investment in French Africa. They assert that the African franc is overvalued at 175:\$1 and in purchasing power is no greater than the inflated French franc. Thus the German investor refuses to take a beating on the exchange ratio and is only interested in investment through capital goods.

Soviet-India Honeymoon Wanes as New Delhi Looks to West for Help

Like the blandishments of most suitors, Russia's toward India are seldom modest; again and again, Russia has made grandiose offers of all forms of business aid on terms against which no private source could hope to compete. But this week there were signs that New Delhi, its head out of the clouds, was ready to do business on a bit more modest basis with interests more accustomed to delivering on their promises. Local analysts see in current negotiations and in the trip Finance Secretary B. K. Nehru is taking through the UK, West Germany, and the US, an awakening from the spell in which Russia seemed to hold New Delhi last year.

Promise Her Anything

Last September, a ten-man team headed by the managing director of India's Hindustan Antibiotics, Ltd. went by invitation to see for themselves whether Russia could not deliver what it would take to build a chain, no less, of antibiotic plants. Then, early this year, the Russians submitted a blueprint for a \$200 million machinery plant and foundry by which they hoped to oust the British from heavy machinery projects.

New Delhi now appears to have spurned both in favor of (1) joining a US pharmaceutical firm (two are said to be competing for the job) to add a streptomycin unit to the government's 30-acre Pimpri penicillin plant, and (2) taking up an offer of the British Federation of Industries to build four independent heavy machinery units rather than the single giant undertaking suggested by the Russians.

While the Bombay representatives of the pharmaceutical firms involved will say no more than confirm that negotiations are in progress, it is known that New Delhi has set aside \$2.1 million for expansion of the Pimpri plant (set up with the aid of the UN World Health Organization), including another penicillin manufacturing unit. Sales of vialled penicillin in March came to \$66,150; streptomycin requirements are estimated at 18,000 kg.

The British machinery project bid calls for four independent units; a heavy structural fabricating workshop, a heavy plate and fabricating works, a heavy machine shop and a medium-heavy machine tool workshop. Finance Secretary Nehru will seek loans from British banks and financial interests with which to execute the British offer. Director General Sir Normal Kipping of the Federation of British Industries hinted when he visited India recently that a loan might be available. British banks called on to help out with the Durgapur steel plant have delivered handsomely.

New Delhi's desire for Western aid in its ambitious industrialization program seems to stem from an official awareness, slow in coming out but nonetheless growing, that Russian promises are wholly politically inspired, and that when the chips are down Russia's surplus will be used mainly in China. Thus Finance Secretary Nehru, it seems likely, will make a hard pitch in the US and Western Europe to secure long-term credits for industrialization during the present development plan period.

LAOS: Area Study

The Buddhist state of Laos, one of the three fragments of what used to be French Indochina, is about the size and population of Kansas. Its per capita annual income is estimated to be a mere \$50, its Gross National Product about \$100 million. Yet Laos each year imports some \$35 million worth of goods, 90 per cent of which is financed by the ICA commercial imports program. US exporters, it seems apparent, should get more than the eight per cent of this business that they are now receiving.

Landlocked between Red China, Burma, North Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and South Vietnam, Laos is a typical valley civilization stretched along the Mekong river and its tributaries. The remainder of the country is made up of uncharted mountains and two wide plateaus, one in the north and the other, suitable for tea, coffee and rubber cultivation, in the south. Vientiane (pop. 20,000) is the government and business center. Goods are moved mainly by air; Laos has no railways, though it does have 5,000 automobiles and is in the midst of a highway development program. The capital is only two hours' flight from Bangkok and three from Saigon.

Monarchists and Communists

Laos bears the form of a constitutional monarchy, headed by the aged but widely beloved King Sisavang Vong, who, crippled by gout, stays in a Shangri La-type valley in the north. The nation is in fact governed by seven great patriarchal families, represented in the 59seat National Assembly by a number of deputies (elected

by the family farmers) in proportion to their established influence.

Two of the northern provinces remain occupied by 6,000 Communist Pathet Lao guerrillas, led by Prince Souphanouvong, half brother of Prince Souvanna Phouma, who runs the pro-West Royal Government. The two princes, opposed by the Vice President and the Interior Minister, are trying to form a coalition under which the Communist rebels would get two ministries. Meanwhile, the two forces have reached a cease fire, so that travel is safe even in the northern provinces.

Investment Market, Too

US aid totals \$50 million, of which \$30 million is for military assistance. Most of these dollar funds are used to finance necessary consumer and other imports, and the resulting local currency proceeds are then used to bolster the military—troop pay, etc.—or for other projects. Allocations for fiscal 1957 are expected to be somewhat larger to finance a large-scale roadbuilding program. Other ICA projects include irrigation, fisheries, rice and coffee development, lumber, public health, education, and a ferry system on the Mekong River to facilitate transit of 4,000 tons of goods monthly between Laos and Thailand.

The US Operations Mission feels there are some small investment opportunities, too, in Laos. Carter de Paul, head of the mission, says that usom is ready "to provide foreign exchange for import of equipment for a small cement plant, for fabrication of rice-straw panels and for brick and match manufacturing." Usom intends also to begin exploration for iron, copper, tungsten and antimony; the northern provinces particularly are believed to be heavy with minerals.

French Predominant

France, Japan, Germany and Hong Kong share the biggest part of the export business to Laos. The US share is in condensed milk, flour, gas refrigerators, outboard engines and roadbuilding equipment, but could readily be expanded (some firms are casing the market from stations in Bangkok). Among the people with whom a US firm or its representative might usefully get in touch are Finance Minister Eaum Insaengmay and Customs Director Peng Norindr. The most enterprising Laotian importers include a Mr. Sisouk (autos, hardware, etc.) and Mr. Souboun Inthavong (hotels, contracting firms, etc.).

French firms are widely represented in Laos. French is spoken by government officials and a large part of the business community. There are about 200 Americans in Laos and a US Embassy at Vientiane. The Howell Group (on an ICA contract) helps the Laotian Government in foreign trade administration. MacGregor Warner, which imports goods and machinery, has a branch in Vientiane. The Bank of Tokyo has just moved in alongside the Bank of Indochina and the Lao Thai Bank.

Bangkok is the transit port for Laos, but the Laotians would like to develop trade with South Vietnam, using Saigon and Tourane as transit points.

Pakistan Investment Incentives, Opportunities Begin to Shrink

Pakistan, like most developing nations, considers itself a pretty good place for a foreign investor to risk his capital, if for no other reason than that it offers fairly liberal concessions and guaranties. Yet, since the partitioning from India a decade ago, foreign investment has accounted for only Rs500.6 million (\$104 million) in industrial and Rs30 million (\$6.25 million) in commercial undertakings. Of the industrial total, 33 per cent has gone to pay for oil prospecting; other staples such as tobacco, chemicals and pharmaceuticals account for much of the rest. At present, despite development efforts, the opportunities and incentives as well seem to be shrinking instead of expanding.

Saturation in Consumer Goods

Of the total Rs298 million authorized for investment last year in Pakistan, only Rs80 million was foreign, and that mostly in oil. The total represents a drop of about Rs40 million from 1955, for which there are at least two reasons: (1) saturation or near-saturation in a number of consumer goods industries such as cotton textiles, paper, tobacco goods and leather products; (2) government efforts to discourage the setting up of industries which must rely largely on imports and which therefore create a drain on available foreign exchange.

Pakistan is a good example of the problem shared by many developing nations: either foreign investment flows into the wrong channels, or it does not flow at all. Pakistan could well use a number of small and varied food and other local raw material processing enterprises content with doing a good business over the long pull. But beyond concessions and guaranties, it must offer positive economic attractions, which in turn depend on development, which depends to a large extent on foreign investment, and so forth.

Policy Unstable

A nation with Pakistan's low per capita production, and its heavy dependence (60 per cent) on farming for what production there is, does not make an especially attractive market. Moreover, the Government suffers from indecision, frequent changes in personnel and a consequently volatile, seldom predictable, policy toward foreign investment. With the help of US aid, basic industry is making headway; for example, investment in

BANQUE NATIONALE DU LAOS



SAIGON TO NEW YORK

May 28, 1957

J. W. B. JUN -3 1957

Vientiane is on the Mekong River about four or five hours by small plane from Saigon. It is very isolated and primitive. There is no desirable public place to lodge there and one must make arrangements with friends or acquaintanences in advance. There are no modern water or sewage systems in Vientiane. It is picturesque, of course, to see the only water available being drawn from a deep, open well in the public square where the market is located. The heat and humidity are oppressive at this time of year and there are no public laundry or dry cleaning facilities. The population is a mixture of Chinese, Thais, Cambodians and Vietnamese. There is no common language among the majority of the people. French is spoken by the upper society. Vientiane is the Administrative capital but the King and Grown Prince live about 400 miles to the north in the Royal capital.

There is supposed to be regular daily airservice to Vientiane. I arrived in Saigon on Sunday and could not arrange to get a Monday flight on Air Viennam so reserved for Tuesday on Air Laos which alternates with the former. When I reached the airport on Tuesday noon I was told that the plane had engine trouble and did not arrive from Laos, where it had to return. I was then booked for Wednesday morning at 6:00, to leave the Hotel at 4:30. We got off at 8:00 in an old crate without retractable landing gear, without pressurization and with bucket seats and thin hanging paddings to cover the sides of the plane. The baggage was tied to the floor in the open compartment in front of us and on it sat the Laon stewardess part of the time. The cabin is ashot as Hades while the plane is on the ground and as cold as the peak of a high mountain when in the air. This was an experience from beginning to end and I enjoyed the umusual, all of which I shall not record here.

The return to Saigon was by Air Vietnam which eperates quite comfortable DC-3s. The only disagreeable feature was the delay in the hot sun at the Laos airport from noon until 3 pm when we took off. The property of the which which which we have a support to the comfortable which which we have a support to the comfortable and the comfortable which we have a support to the comfortable and the comfortable because the comfortable and the comfortable because the comfortable and the comfortable because the comfo

The people in Laos, as in all the Far East which I have visited so far, are friendly. I was invited to a fiesta the first evening and was fortunate in meeting various officials of the Government of Laos, of the United States Economic Mission and of the Embassy. At the party I made arrangements for meetings the following day and for an interpreter.

My main interest was at the Bank, of course. It was founded in 1954 and the present Governor is M. Phouy Panya. The executive officer who actually runs the Bank and makes most of the decisions, or influences them greatly, is the Secretary General, M. Nikorn Phankongsy. The Director is S. Sinbadhit.

At present the Bank is circulating 1,5,10,20, and 100 Kipp notes. These were ordered from the Security Banknote Co. and the supply was sufficient for about 3 years or, according to the Governor, until about the end of next year. The Governor and the Secretary General said they were not satisfied with the notes and wish to look for something better. Iaos has clung more to the French influence than has either Vietnam or Cambodia and the Bank likes the French type note. It not only has not recalled the old notes but recently ordered 2,000,000 notes of 100 Kipp denomination. The back of the new note is to be



exactly the same as the back of the former 100 Piastres note of the Institut d'Emission des Etats du Cambodge, du Laos et du Vietnam. The face will be modified and instead of featuring the three young ladies will show the King, and a watermark as usual. The Governor thought that the Bank next year might have to consider ordering a 500 or a 1000 Kipp note.

The officials were quite interested in the specimens I showed them and listened very attentively to my comments about quality and security. They were concerned that we did not use the watermark but when I showed them the notes we have made for Vietnam and Cambodia, the Governor was surprised and became exceedingly interested. He asked if he could have the specimen of the Cambodia note which he said he lifted very much. I regretted that I could not leave it, and explained in detail our controls. I offered to intercede for him with the Banque Nationale du Cambodge but when he learned that the note had not yet been delivered he said he was sure he would automatically receive one as it was customary for the three countries to exchange specimens.

The Bank officials said they would advise us when they had needs in the future and be glad to consider our proposals.

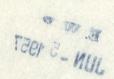
Mr. Carter de Paul, Chief of USOM, asked me to his home for lunch to learn of the conversations at the Bank and had his assistant in charge of Laon currency matters familiarize himself thoroughly as possible with the main points of my representations and examine the specimens. Mr. de Paul and other members of the US Government Mission expressed the hope that a better type of currency would be issued.

The official exchange rate is 35 Kipps to the dollar and the street rate, 100 to 1. Black market activities represent the main business in Laos it seems. Visitors to Hongkong, I understand, sell their dollars there in exchange for the Indo-China currencies. There are controls at the borders, technically, but

not effective ones.

The greatest factor in Laos today is United States aid which I am told is fast changing the complextion of the country, is providing work for thousands and which in the final analysis is designed to counteract the strong influence of some 6,000,000 Chinese Reds living along the borders. Amazing improvements will come to laos if it stays in the right camp, otherwise it will be doomed to years of underdevelopment.

Sincerely,
Murray M. Wise
Manager, Foreign Department.



exactly the same as the back of the former 100 Pisstres note of the Institut d'Enission des Etats du Cambodge, du Laos et du Vietnam. The face will be modified and instead of featuring the three young ladies will show the King, and a watermark as usual. The Governor thought that the Bank next year might have to consider ordering a 500 or a 1000 Kirp note.

The officials were quite interested in the specimens I showed them and listened very attentively to my comments about quality and security. They were concerned that we did not use the watermark but when I showed them the notes we have made for Vietnam and Cambodia, the Governor was surprised and became exceedingly interested. He asked if he could have the specimen of the Cambodia note which he said he liked very much. I regretted that I could not leave it, and explained in detail our controls. I offered to interede for him with the banque Mationale du Cambodge but when he learned that the note had not yet been delivered he said he was sure he would automatically receive one as it was customary for the three countries to exchange specimens.

The Bank officials said they would advise us when they had needs in the future and be glad to consider our proposals.

Mr. Carter de Faul, Chief of USOM, asked me to his home for lunch to learn of the conversations at the Bank and had his assistant in charge of Laon currency metters familiarize himself thoroughly as possible with the main points of my representations and examine the specimens. Mr. de Faul and other members of the US Government Wission expressed the hope that a better type of currency would be issued.

The official exchange rate is 35 Kipps to the dollar and the street rate, 100 to 1. Black market activities represent the main business in Lacs it seems. Visitors to Hongkong, I understand, sell their dollars there in exchange for the Indo-China currencies. There are controls at the borders, technically, but not effective ones.

The greatest factor in Laos today is United Shates aid which I am told is fast changing the countextion of the country, is providing work for thousands and which in the final analysis is designed to counteract the strong influence of some 6,000,000 Uninese Reds living along the borders. Amazing improvements will come to Laos if it stays in the right camp, otherwise it will be doomed to years of underdevelopment.

Sincarely, Minney M. Conse.

Manager, Foreign Department.

CROSS - REFERENCE

| Subject Laos - Bank Notes | cable From latter dated May 28, 1957 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| From Mr. Wise to NY | |
| Filed in Packet Viet Nam Bank . Notes | F [[L] [N] G JUN 13 1957 |

LAOS HAVE GIVEN ORDER TO FRENCH 2,000,000 BANK NOTES 99 (HUHUI 100 ??)

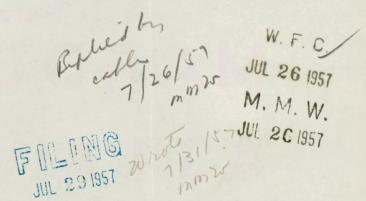
KIPP LOWER DENOMINATIONS SUFFICIENT FOR THE PRESENT

P 396-26

1957 JUL 26 AM 10 38

D269

FB3682 MSB1376



FM477 VIENTIANE 26 26 1230

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY NEWYORK

NO 195 DECIDONS FABRICATIONS PLUSIEURS MILLIONS BILLETS 500 KIPS STOP VOUDRIONS SAVOIR SI ACCEPTEZ FABRICATION AVEC PAPIER FILIGRANE FRANCAIS STOP

BANLAO

(SG) Translation:

WE ARE DECIDING MANUFACTURE SEVERAL MILLION NOTES 500 KIPS STOP WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF YOU ACCEPT MANUFACTURE WITH FRENCH WATERMARKED PAPER

ICFM FM477 AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY NEWYORK NO 195 500 BANLAO



| TO ALL THE WORLD TO SHIPS AT SEA | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--------------|--|--|
| CLASS OF SERVICE | DCA | NUMBER | | |
| FULL RATE | FAST KUT | DIRECT | | |
| LETTER TELEGRAM (LT) | | CHECK CANADA | | |
| PRESS | | | | |
| | DADIOCI | TIME | | |
| FULL RATE UNLESS OTHERWISE MARKED | RADIOGI | | | |

RGE ACCT. NO. SENDER'S

American Bank Note Company

70 Broad Street NAME AND ADDRESS

July 26, 1957

TO

BANLAO (Banque Nationale du Laos)



SENDER PLEASE SPECIFY ROUTE:

INSERT "RCA"

VIENTIANE (LAOS)

Confid 7(31/57

NOUS ÉCRIVONS EN RÉPONSE VOTRE TÉLÉGRAMME D'AUJOURD*HUI

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY

We are writing in response to your tologram of today.

Send the above Radiogram subject to the conditions, regulations and rates as set forth in the applicable tariff of RCA Communications, Inc., and on file with the regulatory authorities.

RCA COMMUNICATIONS, INC. A SERVICE OF RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA



NEW YORK

66 Broad St., N. Y. 4 (Always Open) Tel: Hanover 2-1811 • TWX: NY 1-1345

2 Broadway 54 Wall Street 111 Broadway 5 Beekman Street 132 Franklin Street 45 East 17th Street 5 West 31st Street

Bowling Green 9-9164 Whitehall 4-3650 Rector 2-3377 Barclay 7-1162 Walker 5-4891 Algonquin 4-7050 Oxford 5-2472

N. Y. International Airport

25 West 43rd Street 405 Lexington Avenue 30 Rockefeller Plaza 7 Central Park West 102 East 57th Street Waldorf Astoria Hotel United Nations Headquarters Olympia 6-5787

Bryant 9-0572 Murray Hill 9-1891 Circle 7-5525 Circle 7-6210 Plaza 5-8109 Plaza 8-1200 Eldorado 5-6940

SAN FRANCISCO

135 Market St., San Francisco 5 (Always Open) Tel: Garfield 1-4200 - TWX: SF 861

200 Pine Street 62 Post Street

Garfield 1-4200 Garfield 1-4200

WASHINGTON, D. C. 1812 M Street, Washington 6, D. C. Tel: National 8-2600 - TWX: WA 156

OVERSEAS OFFICES

CUBA Havana Cuba Transatlantic Radio Corporation Edificio Gomez Mena • Tel: A-1156

HAITI Port-au-Prince Maison Leger • Tel: 3322

OKINAWA Naha P. O. BOX 287 • Tel: 21105 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC Ciudad Truiillo Edificio Diez • Tel: 3722

HAWAII Honolulu 223 South King St. • Tel: 52521

> PHILIPPINE ISLANDS Manila Plaza Moraga • Tel: 27901

GUAM Agana RCA Box 577 • Tel: Denver 4184, Denver 6277

> NORTH AFRICA Tangier International Zone 33 Boulevard Pasteur • Tel: 5700

PUERTO RICO San Iuan 1 Comercio St. • Tel: San Juan 2-0143

Liability limited to \$500 except for repeated or specially valued service which is available upon request.

MMW:ed c.c. Mr. HGM, NYC

FIL TING

Air Mail July 31, 1957

His Excellency M. Phouy Panya, Governor Banque Nationale du Laos Vientiane, Laos

Excellency:

We acknowledge receipt of your cable of July 26th, reading:

"Decidons fabrications plusieurs millions billets 500 Kips stop Voudrions savoir si acceptez fabrication avec papier filigrane français stop".

We were pleased to have your inquiry, and immediately cabled you:

"Nous ecrivons en reponse votre telegramme d'aujourd'hui".

In May, as you will recall, I had the privilege of visiting Vientiane and the honor of being received by you and M. Nikorn Phankongsy. Although I regretted not being able to speak to you in your own language, I was fortunate in having an interpreter provided through the kindness of Mr. Carter de Paul of USOM, and could, therefore, exchange views with you.

I appreciated the courteous attention which you and Mr. Phankongsy gave to my discussion of our Company, its product and services, and to the facts given you about the superior quality and security features incorporated into the bank notes manufactured by us. It was good of you to examine the specimens and observe the special features displayed under the ultraviolet lamp.

You will recall that during our discussion the question of the use of watermarks in bank note paper arose, and I explained that this is a feature which we do not use. To summarize that explanation I should like to repeat for your consideration the following:

As regards protective features in bank note paper, extravagant claims have frequently been made by certain firms about the special value of watermarks



His Excellency M. Phouy Panya, Governor Banque Nationale du Laos Vientiane, Laos

[F][]_[][][] July 31, 1957 AUG -1 1957

and other so-called distinctive characteristics of paper which they offer their customers. It is our opinion, reached after exhaustive studies, that such claims are often misleading. Although these features are sometimes dramatic in their presentation, they do not afford the protection claimed for them.

We do not utilize watermarked paper for our bank notes. Our reasons for this are twofold. Primarily, a watermark not only fails to provide any real protection but in fact constitutes a positive danger. A watermark is easy of reproduction or adequate imitation by a counterfeiter, and its presence leads the public to rely upon it in determining genuineness rather than upon the fine quality of the engraving and printing, which cannot be easily reproduced. In addition, the inclusion of a watermark necessitates paper with short fibres and involves a thinning of the paper at the point of the watermark, which materially weakens the wearing qualities of the paper. Our own paper is composed of long fibres firmly interwoven, and is the finest and most durable obtainable. It will be apparent, therefore, that its much longer life represents an important economy as compared with notes printed on thin, soft paper containing a watermark.

As a means of identification, our paper contains small colored disks called "planchettes", which were developed by us and are incorporated into the paper at the time of its manufacture. In our opinion, based upon long experience, these planchettes, which contain various security features, are much more difficult to simulate, afford a more reliable means of identification and are much less likely to divert the attention of the public from the quality of the engraving, which constitutes the principal protection.

As you know, we are currently printing certain denominations of bank notes for the neighboring countries of Cambodia and Viet-Nam, specimens of which you saw during my visit. These are furnished, as I pointed out, without watermarks.

As I further explained, we use only one type and one quality of bank note paper. It is manufactured exclusively for us, in accordance with our own special formula, by Crane & Company, of Dalton, Mass., which also furnishes the paper used by the United States Government for the printing of its currency. The facilities at the Crane plant are operated to assure complete protection against any violation of security.

We maintain a complete account of each sheet of paper issued for every order, and of its daily disposition. Every precaution is taken during the



His Excellency M. Phouy Panya, Governor Banque Nationale du Laos Vientiane, Laos

printing.

July 31, 1. FILLING BUG -1 1957

-3-

manufacturing process to give the customer absolute protection. This is accomplished through a system of controls, accounting and records which the customer

Two objectives are sought in bank note paper, namely, protection and durability, the latter of which is the more important. While the protective features of paper must not be minimized, the greatest protection for a bank note lies not in the paper but rather in the quality of designing, engraving and

may examine during the preparation of the order or following its completion.

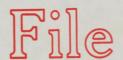
The business of our Company dates back to 1795. Throughout our long history we have been continuously engaged in the production of steel-engraved bank notes, travelers checks, stock certificates and all other documents of monetary value. We enjoy an international reputation for the high quality of our products, services and management, and we have served almost every nation in the world.

Our Company is the largest firm dedicated solely to the manufacture of security documents and is the oldest in experience. It has always been the leader in progressive research activity and in designing for protection——a most important factor in the production of documents of monetary value.

Our manufacturing equipment is the finest in the world. We construct much of our own machinery and other important equipment, which is specially designed by us and constantly improved to meet our manufacturing procedures. Our inks are also made by us on our own premises, according to our own formulas. These have been perfected over many years of experience and are possessed of longwearing qualities. These inks are made solely for use on our own products.

Specifically, then, in answer to your question, we regret that we would not be able to use French watermarked paper for the manufacture of notes for you, but, in view of the foregoing explanations, we offer you the full assurance of our ability to manufacture for you notes of the highest quality and greatest security protection available.

I recall distinctly that during our conversation Your Excellency mentioned that the Bank soon might have to consider ordering a 500 or a 1,000 Kip note. Accordingly, we are honored that you have written to us, and we place our personnel and services at your disposal. We should be only too happy to prepare a model for you, pursuant to your instructions, and to furnish a specimen



M. Phouy Panya, Governor Banque Nationale du Laos Vientiane, Laos July 31, 1957

on April

F 11 6 8 1 G AUG -1 1857

of our bank note paper.

We shall look forward to hearing from you, and in the meantime ask that you please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Very truly yours,

Manager Foreign Department



TRANSLATION

FUE 10 1957

Par Avion le 31 Juillet, 1957

Son Excellence M Phouy Panya, Gouverneur Banque Nationale du Laos Vientiane, Laos

Excellence:

Nous vous remercions de votre télégramme du 26 juillet qui

"Décidons fabrications plusieurs millions billets 500 Kps stop Voudrions savoir si acceptez fabrication avec papier fillerane français stop"

Avec plaisir nous vous avons répondu immédiatement vous assurant qu'une lettre suivrait notre télégramme. Le texte de notre réponse était:

"Nous écrivons en réponse votre télégramme d'aujourd'hui".

Au mois de mai, si vous vous souvenez, j'eus le privilège de visiter Vientiane et aussi l'honneur d'etre réçu par vous et par M. Nikorn Phankongsy. Ne pouvant pas vous parler en français, M. Carter de Paul, of U.S.O.M. eut la bonté de me fournir un interprète, ce qui nous facilita l'échange d'impressions.

Je vous ai été très reconnaissant pour l'intérêt que vous et M. Phankongsy avez montré envers notre Compagnie, lorsque je vous ai parlé de ses produits et ses services, aussi bien que de la qualité supérieure et des éléments de sécurité qui caractérisent les billets de banque faits par nous. Vous avez eu aussi la gentillesse d'examiner les échantillons et remarquer leurs caræféristiques sous les rales d'une lampe ultra-violette.

Vous vous souviendrez sans doute, que pendant notre conversation nous avons fait allusion au sujet de l'emploie de filigrane dans le papier de billets de banque, et je vous al expliqué que nous n'employons pas ce genre de papier.

Certaines compagnies prétendent que l'emploie de filigrane et d'autres caractères distinctifs dans leur papier, offre une garantie



Son Excellence M. Phouy Panya, Gouverneur Banque Nationale du Laos Vientiane, Laos

- 2 -

le 31 juillet, 1957

de sécurité. A notre avis, et après des années de recherches, ces conclusions sont fausses. Quoique ces traits sont parfois présentés d'une façon très dramatique, ils n'offrent la protection prétendue.

Nous n'employons pas du papier avec filigrane pour nos billets de banque, pour deux raisons.

D'abord, le filigrane non seulement n'offre aucune protection, mais il constitue un risque. C'est très facile de le reproduire ou l'imiter et le public est mené à en dépendre, comme un signe d'authenticité, au lieu de chercher la bonne qualité de la gravure et de l'imprimerie qui n'est pas facile de simuler. Deuxièment, l'emploie d'un filigrane exige un papier avec des fibres courtes et l'amincissement du papier à la place où l'on met le filigrane. Cela naturellement diminue la résistence du papier. Notre papier est fait avec de longues fibres solidement entrelacées et d'une consistence insupérable quant à sa durée et à sa qualité. Puisque le résultat est un billet qui dure plus longtemps qu'un billet fait en papier aminci par l'impression d'un filigrane, notre produit est beaucoup plus économique.

Comme moyen d'identification, notre papier contient de petits disques en couleur, appelés "planchettes", qui ont été developpés par nous et qui sont incorporés dans le papier lui-même au moment de sa fabrication. A notre avis, et après des longues années d'experience, ces planchettes, contenant plusieurs traits de sécurité, sont beaucoup plus difficiles à simuler, et offrent un moyen plus sûr d'identification. Le public sera aussi moins porté à dépendre du filigrane dans le papier, que de la bonne qualité de l'impression, qui constitue la vraie garantie d'authenticité.

Comme vous savez, à présent, nous imprimons certaines denominations de billets de banque pour Cambodia et Viet-Nam, dont je vous ai montré les échentillons lorsque j'ai été à Vientlane. Ces billets sont faits en papier sans filigrane. Nous employons seulement un type et une qualité de papier dans nos billets. Ce papier est fabriqué exclusivement pour nous par la Compagnie Crane, de Dalton, Massachusetts. La Compagnie Crane fournit aussi le papier au Gouvernement des Etats-Unis pour l'impression de ses billets. La Compagnie Crane offre la plus complète protection contre toute possibilité de violation de sécurité.

Nous suivons de près chaque feuille de papier employée pour chaque ordre, et ce qu'elle devient chaque jour. Toutes les précautions possibles sont prises pendant la fabrication de nos billets, pour assurer notre client la plus grande protection. Nous achevons cela au moyen d'un système de controle de comptes et d'archives que notre client peut examiner pendant la fabrication de son ordre ou après qu'elle est finie.



Son Excellence M. Phouy Panya, Gouverneur Banque Nationale du Laos Vientiane, Laos

- 3 -

FILL DAYS

le 31 Juillet, 1957

On doit chercher deux buts dans la fabrication de billets de banque, la protection et la durée, cette dernière étant la plus importante, et quoique le côté protectif vaut pour beaucoup, la plus grande protection qui peut offrir un billet de banque n'est pas la qualité du papier, mais plutôt la qualité du dessin, de la gravure et de l'imprimerie.

Notre Compagnie opère depuis l'an 1795. A travers de notre longue histoire nous avons été continuellement engagés dans la production de billèts de banque, chèques de voyageurs, certificats nominatifs, et tout genre de documents monetaires, gravés sur acier. La Compagnie jouit d'une renommée internationale à cause de la haute qualité de ses produits, ses services et son administration, et a rendu service a presque toutes les nations du monde.

L'American Bank Note Company est aussi la plus grande de toutes celles qui se dédient exclusivement à la manufacture de documents de sécurité et c'est celle qui a la plus longue expérience. Elle a toujours été en avant quant à la recherche de méthodes de sécurité.

Nous avons le meilleur équipement au monde, car nous construisons nos propres machines et d'autres éléments importants de notre équipement. Tout ceci est spécialement dessiné pour nous d'après les exigences de nos procès de manufacture.

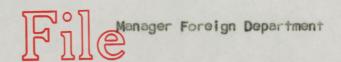
Les encres que nous employons sont faites sur place, selon nos propres formules. Ces dernières ont été perfectionnées au cours de nos longues années d'expérience, et possédent des garanties de longue durée. Elles sont faites pour être employées avec nos produits exclusivement.

En réponse à votre question, Excellence, nous regrettons que nous ne pouvons pas nous servir du papier français avec filigrane pour la fabrication de billets de banque. Nous vous offrons l'assurance cependant que nos billets offrent la plus grande garantie de qualité et de protection.

Je me souviens que pendant notre conversation, Votre Excellence a mentionné la possibilité de que votre Banque pourrait avoir besoin de billets de 500 ou 1000 Kips. Nous nous sentons donc privilegiés d'avoir eu votre lettre, et nous voudrions mettre à votre disposition notre personnel et notre service. Nous serions heureux de préparer un modèle pour votre consideration, suivant vos spécifications, et avec plaisir nous vous enverrions un spécimen du papier que nous employons pour nos billets de banque.

En attendant l'honneur de votre réponse, veuillez agréer, Votre Excellence, l'assurance de ma plus haute considération.

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY



cc: Mr. H. G. McNeary
MMW:sg

Air Mail August 14, 1957

M. Phouy Panya, Governor Banque Nationale du Laos Vientiane, Laos FULTING AUG 16 1957

Excellency:

In our letter of July 31st, in response to your inquiry which we much appreciated, we explained our policy and practice with respect to the exclusive type of bank note paper we use for the printing of currency.

As you know, we are the largest firm dedicated solely to the manufacture of security documents and are the oldest in experience Our Company has always been the leader in progressive research and in designing for protection against counterfeiting. This is a most important factor in the production of documents of monetary value.

We are proud to say that we do not make extravagant or irresponsible promises in order to obtain business, and our commitments regarding specifications, prices and deliveries are strictly honored.

In the light of the foregoing we have expressed our interest in extending to you the fullest cooperation possible, for we should consider it a real privilege, entirely apart from any commercial aspect, if you would permit us to work with you on a design for the proposed 500 Kip note. Should we reach agreement on the composition of a note that would best serve your interests, we feel assured that you would be very pleased with the high quality product, supreme protection and responsible services we could furnish you.

Accordingly, we should be most pleased to have you give us now your ideas of design for the 500 Kip note and permit us to prepare for you without obligation, a model that we know you would like.

We should appreciate hearing from you soon and in the meantime please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Very truly yours,

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY



Ny Times 2/15/58

ZZ L DIMAN CADIMAN

LAOTIAN CAPITAL CITY OF CONTRAST

High-Priced Cars, Barefoot Pedestrians in Streets— U.S. Aid Enriches a Few

By GREG MacGREGOR

Special to The New York Times

VIENTIANE, Laos. Feb. 13—Seemingly oblivious to the political struggle that may confront Laos, residents of this city went languidly about their business today.

A campaign for National Assembly by-elections May 4 will begin next month. The Communist-backed Pathet Lao, now a member of a coalition Government, will take part for the first time. Its success at the polls may set a pattern for the general elections in December, 1959.

Meanwhile, life goes on in Vientiane completely apart from the internal problems of the nation.

This city is one of the most contradictory capitals of Asia. Rutted roads bordered by cement sidewalks cross the center of town, which is characterized by continually fading electric power, a shortage of telephones, a lack of sewers but plenty of barefoot pedestrians.

Sidewalks are lined with wellstocked open-front stores that sell good-quality merchandise. New-model American-made and other automobiles cruise along the rutted roads lined with shade trees planted years ago by farsighted French colonists.

Restaurants Fly-Infested

Sanitation in most of the open-front restaurants is careless. Flies circle guests during the daytime and mosquitos buzz them at night.

In direct contrast are gaudy 2 night clubs that open at about 9 P. M. and have gross receipts of \$1,000,000 a year.

Floor shows are imported from the United States, the Philippines and Australia, musicians from Manila and dancing partners from Saigon and Hong Kong. A glass of beer or a whisky highball is priced at \$3.70 at the legal exchange rate or \$1.40 at the black-market scale. Most of the guests are Laotians. Their cars—Mercedes-Benzes, Fords, Chevrolets and Hontiacs—are parked outside the clubs. Some of these car owners did not own even bicycles five years ago.

Graft on a Big Scale

The answer to these inconsistencies is that a few Laotians are reaping profits from United States aid.

During the last four years, United States aid averaging about \$40,000,000 a year has lined selected pockets to the bulging point and resulted in a notable failure in achievement. An unrealistic exchange rate coupled with poor administration has led to graft on a big scale.

With the United States dollar worth about 100 kips the Laotian currency and selling legally for only 35 kips, it did not take long for opportunists to build up fortunes.

An import-license racket enabled fraudulent "importers" to buy dollars through the bank at the legal rate and then sell them on the open market. Other more complicated frauds were connected with the unrealistic exchange rate.

The import-license racket has been stamped out and the aid program is virtually at a standstill pending reexamination of the exchange rate under which the United States is paying \$3 to get \$1 worth of results in cases where results were actually obtained. But questionable transactions are still being made in the wake of the dollar overflow from the United States. Nothing approaching an austerity program has been seriously considered.

mie

CROSS - REFERENCE

| Subject Laos - Bank Notes | From letter dated May 6, 1958 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| From MW to WFC | |
| Filed in Packet Paper | E DE TRIB |
| | MAIN 2 |

Re: French Bank Note Paper

.....With respect to Cambodia, Mr. Perrigot said that he had supplied Giesecke & Devrient with the paper for the 100 piastres note and had also supplied a British firm with paper for Cambodia notes.

Loas, he said, will continue to use paper supplied by the Bank of France.....

PRINTING MORE BANKNOTES

"CHINA HAIL" 23 MAR 1962

Vientiane, Mar. 23.
Informed sources said today
the Royal Lactian Government is planning to print
a substantial amount of
banknotes as a stop-gap
solution to the country's
deteriorating economic
situation created by suspension of American aid.

The sources noted this action would eventually lead to inflation.

They said the Government needs money to pay its Army and civil servants.

The sources disclosed that Government officials called to Vientiane representatives of several internationally-known banknote print firms to place an order. But so far, the sources said, the deal has not been concluded as the Government still is considering which firm will make the best offer, and, most important, which will be prepared to print the badly needed banknotes in the shortest possible time.

Seven months

The sources explained that at least seven months would be needed to complete printing of the banknotes.

The Government was reported to have an estimated \$20 million reserves in hard currency. As the country has neither gold reserves nor securities to cover its local currency, the \$20 million had served this purpose.

This amount was left un-

This amount was left untouched as long as the United States was delivering its monthly \$3 million cheque. Payments were stopped two months ago.

As Laos is not an exporting country, the reserves would necessarily be used to pay for imports.

In the long run, the new local currency being circulated would be left uncovered. The situation may change, however, if the U.S. resumes its aid.—AP.

FILING
JAN - 4 1974

FOREIGN DEPT. A. B. N. CO.

JAN 3 11 07 AM '73

Jil

BANKTE 421795M

BRADBANK MALDEN

FOR BARRETT

LAOS 10 KIP NOTES. NOTE SIZE IS 130 X 70MM PRINTED 60 SET

(6 X 10) ON WATERMARKED PAPER 31.11/16 X 28.3/4 INCHES.

FRONT PRINTINGS 3 OFFSET WORKINGS (2 OF WHICH ARE RAINBOWED),

SIGNATURES AND NUMBERS BOTH IN FLUORESCENT INK. BACK PRINTINGS
2 OFFSET WORKINGS (ONE OF WHICH IS RAINBOWED) M QUANTITY IS

10 MILION NOTES WHICH EQUALS 365 REAMS.